

**MALAYSIA VISIT**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [2.08 pm]: I rise to update the house on my recent trip to Sepang and Kuala Lumpur, and the understanding gained on motorsport, and the aged-care and sporting sectors to enable greater collaboration between Malaysia and Western Australia. Sport Australia's recent "Sport 2030" report states —

Governments have an obligation to seek tangible returns from investing in both attracting and staging major international sporting events ...

I truly believe that Western Australia's sport and recreation sectors have fantastic potential to bring tourists to WA and will support both WA jobs and diplomatic relations with our neighbouring states. Sport is a global phenomenon and the sector is worth over \$12 billion to the Australian economy. There is a strong desire internationally to both improve elite performance and bolster participation in grassroots sport to enhance the health of the community.

Western Australia has a lot to share with countries such as Malaysia, including our approach to increasing participation in community sport, especially for children; expanding programs into regional and remote areas; managing facilities; and working towards gender equality in sport. We were also fortunate to learn many lessons from our Malaysian counterparts, particularly their management of international motorsport tournaments, and to gain an understanding of the economics and accessibility of the nation's extensive facilities. We have some fantastic venues in Western Australia, from multi-sport venues such as Optus Stadium and RAC Arena to more sport-specific facilities such as Perth Motorplex and the State Netball Centre. In the Speaker's gallery today are the Malaysian netball president, Ms Alwiyah Binti Talib, and her assistant, Ms Zarina Binti Johari, who we met in Malaysia and who are touring some of WA's fantastic sporting facilities. The McGowan government is advancing our sporting partnerships with our neighbours and will continue to build on the relationships recently developed in Malaysia.

I finish by thanking all the Malaysian officials who took the time to meet with us and share their invaluable knowledge of the industry and Malaysian culture and government, and Mr John Caitlin, commissioner for the government of Western Australia for Malaysia and his team for their work organising such an insightful trip.

I hereby table the report of the trip.

[See paper 2078.]